

Message Text

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ORIGIN OES-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-14 EUR-12 ISO-00 L-03 PM-05 COME-00
DODE-00 NSF-02 /044 R

DRAFTED BY OES/OFA/MST:WERB:MJB
APPROVED BY OES/OFA/MST:WERB
L/OES - MR. COLSON (DRAFT)
ARA/AND - MR. COX (DRAFT)
ARA/AND - MR. SERGEANT (DRAFT)
EUR/NE - MR. GOODMAN (DRAFT)
-----078780 040954Z /15

R 031858Z AUG 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
INFO AMCONSUL CURACAO

UNCLAS STATE 182150

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OCLR, TGEN, TPHY, CO, VE, NL

SUBJECT: R/V'S ROBERT D. CONRAD AND MOANA WAVE CLEARANCE
REQUEST, 12 OCT - 21 NOV 1977

1. R/V'S CONRAD AND MOANA WAVE ARE PLANNING TO CONDUCT
GEOPHYSICAL STUDIES OF THE SEDIMENTS AND CRUSTAL STRUCTURES
OF THE CARIBBEAN CONTINENTAL MARGIN OFF THE COASTS OF
VENEZUELA, COLOMBIA, AND CURACAO (NETHERLANDS). CONRAD
IS OPERATED BY THE LAMONT-DOHERTY GEOPHYSICAL OBSERVATORY
(COLOMBIA UNIVERSITY) AND MOANA WAVE IS OPERATED BY THE
UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII (INSTITUTE OF GEOPHYSICS). BOTH ARE
PRIVATE VESSELS AND THE RESEARCH IS FUNDED BY THE NATIONAL
SCIENCE FOUNDATION.

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2. A DETAILED PROSPECTUS IS BEING POUCHED. BRIEFLY, THE
OBJECTIVES OF THE RESEARCH ARE:

(A) TO STUDY THE NATURE OF THE DIVISION BETWEEN THE
VENEZUELAN - COLOMBIAN BASINS AND THE OFFSHORE ARCUATE
DEFORMED BELT OF SEDIMENTS ON THE CARIBBEAN CONTINENTAL

MARGIN OF SOUTH AMERICA. THE SCIENTISTS HOPE TO LEARN SOMETHING ABOUT THE PLATE MOTIONS ACROSS THE DIVISION AS WELL AS THE THICKNESS, STRUCTURE AND THE STYLE OF DEFORMATION OF THE SEDIMENTS OF THE BELT.

(B) TO STUDY THE AGE OF THE BASEMENT IN THE VENEZUELAN AND COLOMBIAN BASINS AND TO IDENTIFY THE SEDIMENTS OF THE VARIOUS LAYERS.

(C) TO DETERMINE THE CRUSTAL STRUCTURE OF THE BASINS AND TO COMPARE IT TO THE CRUSTAL STRUCTURE OF OTHER OCEAN BASINS.

3. (A) THE RESEARCH IN THE VENEZUELAN BASIN WILL BE CONDUCTED BY THE TWO SHIPS OPERATING AS A TEAM. THEY WILL USE SEISMIC TECHNIQUES IDENTIFIED AS CRITICAL ANGLE REFLECTION PROFILING AND COMMON DEPTH POINT WIDE ANGLE REFLECTION AND REFRACTION. THE TECHNIQUES WILL HOPEFULLY PRODUCE HIGH-ACCURACY DATA AND WILL BASICALLY INVOLVE RECORDING DATA WHILE THE TWO VESSELS ARE MOVING APART AT CONSTANT SPEEDS. THE PROSPECTUS EXPANDS ON THESE TECHNIQUES; ADDITIONALLY, SHIP'S TRACKS ARE BEING PLOTTED WHICH DEPICT THE SURVEY AREAS. OCEAN BOTTOM SEISMOMETERS (OBS) WILL BE PLACED ON THE OCEAN BOTTOM AT LOCATIONS MARKED ON THE CHARTS BY TRIANGLES COMPRISED OF DOTTED LINES. OBS'S ARE SMALL INSTRUMENTED DEVICES WHICH RECORD SOUND WAVES THAT

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ARE REFRACTED THROUGH SEDIMENT LAYERS. THE SOUND WAVES ARE GENERATED BY AIR GUNS OR EXPLOSIVE CHARGES USED IN THE SEISMIC SURVEYING. THE OBS'S ARE RECOVERED AFTER THE OPERATION.

(B) OFF THE COLOMBIAN COAST THE RESEARCH WILL BE CONDUCTED JUST BY THE CONRAD AND NOT THE MOANA WAVE. THE PURPOSE IS AS PREVIOUSLY STATED; HOWEVER, THE RESEARCH TECHNIQUES WILL NOT REQUIRE THE USE OF TWO VESSELS.

(C) DATA TO BE COLLECTED INCLUDES: NAVIGATION, BATHYMETRY, GRAVITY, MAGNETICS, SEISMIC REFLECTION AND REFRACTION. THE EQUIPMENT TO BE USED INCLUDES: MAGNETOMETER, GRAVIMETER, SATELLITE NAVIGATION RECEIVER, 00LT AIRGUN, SEISMOMETER, OBS, ONE-HALF POUND CHARGES OF TNT.

4. ALL DATA RESULTS WILL BE FREELY SHARED WITH HOST COUNTRIES AND BERTHS ARE AVAILABLE FOR TWO PARTICIPANTS. IT IS KNOWN THAT DR. MANIK TALWANI, DIRECTOR OF LAMONT-DOHERTY, HAS CORRESPONDED WITH GOV AND GOC (DR. GALAVIS-SEIDEL, MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINES, VENEZUELA; DR. DUQUE-CARO, CHIEF REGIONAL INGEOMINAS, COLOMBIA) AND

THAT THERE IS INTEREST IN PARTICIPATION. ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE MADE WHEN PARTICIPANTS ARE SELECTED BY RESPECTIVE GOVERNMENTS.

5. (A) CHIEF SCIENTIST ABOARD CONRAD IS DR. TALWANI WITH A SCIENTIFIC PARTY OF 20. CAPTAIN IS J. P. OLANDER WITH

A CREW OF 20.

(B) CONRAD IS 1073 GROSS TONS, 208 FT. LONG, AND HAS A DRAFT OF 15 FT. RADIO CALL SIGN IS WHBA AND SHIP MONITORS EMERGENCY FREQUENCIES.

6. (A) CHIEF SCIENTIST ABOARD MOANA WAVE IS DR. D. M. UNCLASSIFIED

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HUSSONG OF UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII WITH A SCIENTIFIC PARTY OF 13. CAPTAIN IS O. K. EVANS WITH A CREW OF 11.

(B) MOANA WAVE IS 289 GROSS TONS; 174 FT. LONG AND HAS AN 11 FT. DRAFT. RADIO CALL SIGN IS WZE 3929 AND SHIP MONITORS EMERGENCY FREQUENCIES.

7. CONRAD WILL BE MAKING A PORT CALL AT SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO ON 12 OCT AND AT BARBADOS ON 11 NOV. MOANA WAVE IS PLANNING A PORT CALL AT SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO ON 22 OCT. PORT CALLS WILL BE ARRANGED PRIVATELY THROUGH SHIPPING AGENTS.

8. ONE OF THE SHIP'S TRACK CHARTS BEING POUCHED INDICATES SHORE-BASED SEISMIC STATIONS. UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII HAS INFORMED US THAT THEY ARE MAKING ARRANGEMENTS PRIVATELY TO SECURE PERMISSION TO SET UP THESE STATIONS; THEREFORE, THEY ARE NOT PART OF THIS REQUEST.

9. (A) ACTION: FOR CARACAS AND THE HAGUE: EMBASSIES ARE REQUESTED TO SEEK PERMISSION FOR R/V'S MOANA WAVE AND CONRAD TO CONDUCT MARINE SCIENTIFIC CONTINENTAL SHELF RESEARCH OFF VENEZUELAN AND CURACAO COASTS DURING PERIOD 12 OCT - 21 NOV 1977.

(B) FOR BOGOTA: EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO SEEK CLEARANCE FOR CONRAD TO CONDUCT MARINE SCIENTIFIC CONTINENTAL SHELF RESEARCH OFF COLOMBIAN COAST DURING PERIOD 12 OCT - 21 NOV 1977.

(C) IN VIEW OF THE UNSETTLED SHELF BOUNDARIES IN REGION, WE WISH TO REMAIN GENERAL IN REGARD TO THE AREA FOR EACH REQUEST. CHRISTOPHER UNCLASSIFIED

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: OCEANOGRAPHIC RESEARCH, ROBERT D CONRAD R/V, MOANA R/V
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 03-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE182150
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: WERB:MJB
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770279-0506
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t197708100/aaaadhfh.tel
Line Count: 175
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 05b28c4e-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN OES
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1400289
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: R/V'S ROBERT D. CONRAD AND MOANA WAVE CLEARANCE REQUEST, 12 OCT - 21 NOV 1977
TAGS: OCLR, TGEN, TPHY, TOCY, CO, VE, NL, NS, NA
To: BOGOTA CARACAS MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/05b28c4e-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009